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PACIFIC COAST RAILROADS

A variety of rumors are flying about the state in regard to the possible railroad enterprises that may be undertaken by Villard in California. It is said that the gentleman who controls the Northern Pacific has purchased the North Pacific Coast and the South Pacific Coast lines and that he will, in connection with the bit of narrow-gauge road which he purchased in Santa Barbara county two years ago, form a complete narrow-gauge system for the purpose of exploiting portions of the state as yet untouched by railroads and connecting them with his Oregon system. It is also suggested that he desires to extend the South Pacific Coast to the Needles, that he may have two lines connecting San Francisco with the east, thereby placing himself on an equality with the Central Pacific so far as concerns the business of the entire Pacific coast. Although it would be a pleasure to know that Mr. Villard really intended extending his northern lines into California, strict inquiry fails to materialize any of these projects. The South Pacific Coast is owned and controlled by two or three large capitalists who give forth no intimation of their intentions, and no one knows that any offer of sale to Villard has been made, or would be entertained if made. It is not clear to railroad men that Villard, who owns an extensive system of standard-gauge roads, should really desire a system of narrow-gauge feeders, which would compel the breaking of bulk on all transcontinental freight. The rumors of this particular change seem to have come from the fact that George Revet, at different times connected with the Denver and Rio Grande, the Willamette Valley and the California and Oregon, has succeeded Mr. Fracker as Superintendent of the South Pacific Coast, a change which has no especial significance.

The report that the Oregon railroad magnate has purchased the North Pacific Coast is emphatically denied by its owners and managers, who also say that the visit of its president to Scotland had nothing whatever to do with the interests of the road. He has not formed a lumber syndicate, nor have they any present intention of extending the road into Mendocino county, though the report was widely believed.

The situation of the San Francisco and North Pacific remains unchanged. They are improving their San Francisco connection to better accommodate their increasing business and will extend their line northward into Humboldt county when the business of that thinly settled region seems to demand the enterprise. Meanwhile the business of Humboldt is developing into local importance and short lines of railroad, almost exclusively devoted to lumber, connect Eureka with the forests in the mountains. The country has great agricultural resources, but these must remain while in abeyance till capital is willing to give rail connection with San Francisco by building through several hundred miles of unsettled country.

The two or three projects to connect Napa and Solano counties with Lake county, and to unite Benicia and Vallejo with Santa Rosa by a narrow-gauge road are not now being agitated and it is not known when they will be resumed.

The prospect of direct connection with Denver by a line through Southern Nevada and Southern Utah continues hopeful. Persons interested in this scheme and also in a new line to the Needles, which many hope the South Pacific Coast company has in view, will attend the coming conference of railroad men in San Francisco, and though the immediate subject of this meeting is some common basis for the adjustment of freight and passenger rates, they will

have an opportunity of seeing what the Pacific coast is like and understanding the advantages it offers for a new and independent route to the east.—*Chronicle.*

Our Well-Worn Earth.

That the falling drop will wear away the stone, is a saying that few adult persons have not been able to verify by observation; but it is not so generally understood that falling drops of rain will wear away a mountain or wash away a continent. Rain, frost and ice have ground down the summits of the loftiest mountains; and there are few high peaks now in existence which have not been much higher, and which are now being steadily leveled by atmospheric agencies. In colder climates solid glacier rivers are also found, which moving imperceptibly, but with irresistible force, hollow out valleys and grind down the superincumbent rocks. The sea also devours the land rapidly. Furthermore, innumerable rivers, streams and springs are perpetually loosening the soil, rasping down the rocks with sand, and bearing off tons of solid matter to the sea-bottom, where the whole mass is squeezed by the terrific hydraulic pressure into stone, marble of solid strata of some kind. The Mississippi alone carries annually to the sea 812,500,000,000 pounds of mud. All the habitable land of the globe is being continually ground and washed away—planned down to the ocean-level; while the sea-bottom is being as steadily filled up. The deposit of foraminiferous shells alone—not including other remains—is sufficient, as Huxley has calculated, to create a bed of limestone in the bottom of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans 800 feet thick supposing these oceans to have existed for only 100,000 years.

Were it not for internal forces the time would come when all existing land would be level with the ocean, and thereafter planned down still farther by the action of the waters, so that the entire globe would be one shoreless ocean. The coral islands would form no exception; for the coral-builders cannot live above water, nor could their islands ever have reached the surface but for the subterranean upheavals. Thus the tendency of the world's crust is becoming uniformly smooth and level, and to surround itself with an envelope of water. But within the earth enormous forces are constantly at work to counteract this tendency—forces which manifest themselves in volcanic action, in seismic action, and in other and even more mysterious actions.

Studies in Zoology.

"We call them zoological hosiery," said a clerk at a Cleveland reporter, as the latter inquired after the expense and sale of the much-decorated hose. "The timid young lady who climbs up on a chair when a mouse runs after her can yet wear hose adorned with bugs and spiders chasing each other over the surface. Here is another unique design," added the young man, throwing out upon the counter an elegant pair of silk hose, over the instep of which was crawling an ugly rattlesnake. "Here is a pair with a scene from Dante's 'Inferno,' the young man continued, and finally emptied the whole box upon the counter. There were insect designs, showing bees, Brazilian bugs, beetles, grubs, worms and all sorts and sizes of caterpillars. Green lizards, copied from life, formed a very gay pattern.

"What do they cost?" inquired the reporter.

"The very poorest kind cost \$12, and from that up to \$30 and \$35 per pair."—*Cleveland Herald.*

New Coal Beds Discovered.

B. W. Fisk, who has just traveled over the line of the proposed railroad between Astoria and Forest Grove, reports that he has discovered valuable veins of lignite coal at several points along the route. There are about ten veins in all, varying from sixteen inches to six feet in width. The best veins have been found near Pebble creek. Several of his specimens have been examined by Professor Tiernan, the geologist, and pronounced by him to be of a superior order. Most of the lignite is within a short distance of the line of the railroad, and can be profitably worked and shipped to and from Astoria and Portland. It is thought by several gentlemen who are familiar with the find, that it will have a tendency to cause the railroad to be built sooner than is expected.—*Oregonian.*

The Field that Affords Culture.

I maintain that there is no field that affords better culture than business life does, not for mere good nature, but for the finest Christian kindness. I know this is not the common impression. "Business is business," men say. They fancy that any element of kindness is a mere disturbing element in the poor economies by which commerce must be regulated. But this common impression is false. I tell you, if any of you in some quiet Sabbath hour get a glimpse of all the high, loving qualities which constitute Christ's sort of Christian, you may take them all down town with you every morning of the week, and not one day but you shall find scope—abundant, beautiful scope—for every one of them.—*Rev. Brooke Herford.*

A Walla Walla merchant who has been up in the Snake River and Lewiston country a week, reports that there are 40,000 tons of grain in that region for market, and that the solitary boat running between Riparia and Lewiston is only able to carry 800 tons a week. He was informed another boat is to be put on, but the river is very low and little more than half loads can be hauled out. At the present rate it will take five years to haul away the grain now hand.—*Exchange.*

The schooner *Kodiak*, in the Alaska Fur company trade, on her last trip from the north, brought down four Alaskan mummies in excellent preservation, and several centuries old. Three of them are for the Berlin museum, while the other has been retained by the fur company. It is that of a woman wrapped in a mantle of furs. The entire weight does not exceed fifteen pounds.

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The new postal law now makes the taking of a newspaper and the refusal to pay for the same, theft; and any person guilty of such an action is liable to criminal proceedings for stolen goods to the amount of his subscription. Thus the Lord tempts the wind to the shorn lamb.—*Idaho Democrat.*

SYMPTOMS OF WORMS.
The countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flushes of a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an uneasy semicircular rum along the lower part of the nose is noticed; stools, and sometimes menses, a scabiness of the upper lip; occasional headache, with burning or itching of the nose; an unusual secretion of saliva; slight or furred tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a growing sensation of the stomach; at others, cutting gone; feeling pain in the stomach; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times constipated; stools slimy, not unfrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; urine turbid; respiration occasionally difficult and accompanied by hiccup; cough sometimes dry and continued; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist.

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